

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 21 are pending in the application. Claims 1 – 12 and 14 – 21 stand rejected due to statutory double patenting under 35 U.S.C. §101. Claims 3, 6 and 11 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 14-17 and 19-21 stand rejected as anticipated by Lund, U.S. Patent No. 4,193,360, and claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 12-16 and 18-20 stand rejected as anticipated by Ingram, U.S. Patent No. 4,491,078.

Claims 1, 13 and 21 have been cancelled. Claims 2 and 10 have been rewritten as independent claims. Claims 22 and 23 are newly proposed claims depending from claim 10, similar to prior claims 3 and 5. All of the independent claims 2, 10 and 16 have been amended to refer specifically to loopers instead of the more general gauge elements. It is believed that these amendments to the claims remove the Section 101 statutory double patenting objection.

By reciting that the gauge elements are loopers, it is believed that the anticipatory rejection based upon Lund should be overcome. With regard to Claims 2 and 16, the amended claims require that the proximal ends of the loopers be interposed between a bracing pin and a lateral pin. This feature is lacking from both Lund with respect to knives, and from Ingram with respect to loopers. With regard to Claim 10, the amendment has made clear that the second slots are to receive second loopers as reflected, for instance, in Figure 10 of the application. Neither Lund nor Ingram disclose the mounting of a second set of gauge elements in second slots.

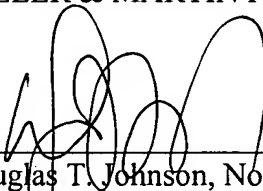
With these amendments to the claims, it is believed that all of Claim 2 with its dependent claims 3-9 and 12, 14 and 15; Claim 10 with its dependent claims 11, 22 and 23; and claim 16 with its dependent claims 17-20 are properly allowable over the prior art.

SUMMARY

Claims 2 – 12, 14-20, 22 and 23 are pending in the application. As amended, the applicant believes these claims are now in proper form for allowance, and such favorable action is requested. In addition, a petition for an extension of time for the third month is filed with this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

MILLER & MARTIN PLLC



Douglas T. Johnson, No. 31,841
Suite 1000 Volunteer Building
832 Georgia Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37402
(423) 756-6600

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the preceding submission is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

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on this 1st day of December, 2006.



Douglas T. Johnson